

Amendments to the Specification

Amendments are hereby made to the specification by way of several replacement paragraphs as indicated below. In accordance with 37 CFR. § 1.121(b)(1)(i), Applicant hereby instructs that each paragraph identified herein is to be replaced with a respective replacement paragraph. The location of each paragraph to be replaced is unambiguously identified below with respect to the previous version of the specification. In accordance with 37 CFR. § 1.121(b)(1)(ii), the full text of each replacement paragraph is provided below with markings to show all the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph.

Please insert the following paragraph as the first paragraph of the “Brief Description of the Drawings” section:

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee.

Please insert as the last paragraphs of the “Brief Description of the Drawings” section:

Additionally, FIGS. 12-15 are color reproductions of color photographs showing vacuum-packed diapers and a method for vacuum-packing diapers as disclosed in provisional patent application serial number 60/451,433, from which priority is claimed, and which has been incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 4-10 of the specification as follows:

~~In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a packaged diaper is provided and includes a densified diaper volumetrically reduced to a second reduced volume and increased density from a first greater volume and lesser nominal density. The reduction of the diaper can entail reduction in one or more dimensions. An encasement can also be provided in which the diaper can be disposed in the second reduced volume. The encasement can confine the diaper so that the diaper is retained in the reduced volume by~~

~~the encasement.~~In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a packaged diaper is provided and includes a diaper being reduced to a second, increased density from a first, nominal density. The increased density of the diaper can be in at least two dimensional directions relative to the nominal density. An encasement can also be provided in which the diaper can be disposed in the second, increased density. The encasement can confine the diaper so that the diaper is retained in the increased density by the encasement.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 18-28 of the specification as follows:

As an example, it has been found that by drawing a vacuum down to about 5 ~~Mbar~~millibars at room temperature and pressure at a location about 5,000 feet elevation above mean sea level, the volume of the diaper can be reduced to as little as 1/3 or 1/4 that of the nominal volume. Similar results are to be expected at locations of different elevation. However, as is known, at lower elevations a greater vacuum can be drawn to allow for subsequent transportation of the packaged product to higher elevations. For example, vacuum packaging using a vacuum down to 1 or 2 millibars~~Mbar~~ is common at lower elevations. Thus, in the space required to store one conventional diaper, three, four, or more, diapers packaged in accordance with the invention can be stored. The reduced volume packaged diapers are not only advantageous in reducing storage space, the space required for packaging, shipping, etc., is also reduced, leading to considerable cost savings in associated processes.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, line 30 through page 12, line 12 of the specification as follows:

~~In several embodiments of the invention, a reduced diaper is provided. The reduced diaper is densified by volumetric reduction from a first greater volume and lesser nominal density to a second reduced volume and increased density. An encasement can also be included and the diaper can be disposed in the encasement in the second reduced volume. The encasement can thereby confine the reduced diaper so that the diaper is retained in the reduced volume by the encasement. The volumetric reduction can entail~~

~~dimensional reductions in width, thickness, length, and diameter. In this manner, a volumetrically reduced, space-efficient densified diaper is provided that can be easily stored and carried by an individual in a discreet manner. Upon release of the reduced diaper from the encasement, the diaper can be volumetrically expanded and used in the same manner as conventionally packaged diapers.~~ Similarly, in one embodiment of the invention, a packaged diaper is provided and can include a diaper being reduced to a second, increased density from a first, nominal density. The increased density of the diaper can be in at least two dimensional directions relative to the nominal density. An encasement can also be included and the diaper can be disposed in the encasement in the second, increased density. The encasement can thereby confine the diaper so that the diaper is retained in the increased density by the encasement. The two dimensional directions can include a width and thickness of the diaper, a width and length, a diameter and length, etc. In this manner, a reduced sized, space-efficient densified diaper is provided that can be easily stored and carried by an individual in a discreet manner. Upon opening of the encasement the diaper expands to its nominal density, typically a greatly expanded size, and can then be used in the same manner as conventionally packaged diapers.